Central Government have announced a scheme of Growth Centres to be set up in backward districts. Further, Government have, in principle, agreed to extend the 'Transport Subsidy Scheme' during the Eighth Five Year Plan under which subsidy is admissible to industrial units set up in selected backward/hilly areas for movement of raw material and finished products subject to prescribed conditions.

Transportation of Bomby High Gas to Pipavav

2974. SHRI JITENDRABHAI LABHSHANKER BHATT:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI CHHOTUBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat Government has represented for bringing the Bombay High gas near Pipavav land-fall point; and

(b) if so, at what is the present stage of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal was to bring natural gas from the Mid and South Tapti gas fields in the Western Offshore to the Pipavav landfall point. While it has been decided in principle to commit gas from the Tapti field for a power plan to be set up at Pipavav at Saurasthra Coast, this project would be subject to availability of necessary outlays for the Oil & Ga_s Sector as also for the Power Sector in the 8th Five Year Plan.

Allotment of Funds for Salt Labourers' Welfare Activities in Gujarat

2975. SHRI JITENDRABHAI LABSHANKER BHATT:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact athat Gujarat contributes 75 per cent or even more towards the total salt cess of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during the last so many years, out of the total expenditure met from the salt cess, only about 20 per cent expenditure is incurred in Gujarat; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government propose to take to allot more funds for the Salt Labourers' Welfare activities in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The total cess collection from Salt Industry during the last 5 years has been Rs. 873.90 lakhs, out of which the Contribution of salt manufacturers of Gujarat was Rs. 634.59 lakhs, constituting 72.62 per cent. Similarly the expenditure met out of salt cess proceeds on the development/labour welfre works relating to salt industry during the last 5 years was Rs. 382.60 lakhs, of which an amount of Rs. 82.68 lakhs, constituting 21.6 per cent was spent in Gujarat.

No Statewise allocation is made for incurring expenditure out of the salt cess proceeds. The Salt Cess Act provides that salt cess proceeds are to be utilised mainly for meeting the establishment expenditure of the Salt Department and the surplus, if any, for the development of the Salt industry in the country. Expenditure out of the Cess